

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 DOTE-00 OIC-04 IO-14 L-03 CIAE-00

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R 181434Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4703

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, OAS, PARCA

SUBJECT: PAN AMERICAN RAILWAY CONGRESS ASSOCIATION (PARACA)

REF: STATE 232590

1. PARCA ADVISED OF REASONS FOR DELAY IN DESIGNATION OF US REP TO PERMANENT COMMISSION PER PARA 3 REFTEL. PERMANENT COMMISSION EXPECTED TO NAME NEW TREASURER IN MEETING DEC 21.

2. ALSO AT DEC 21 MEETING, PARCA'S OBSERVER TO OCTOBER GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF LATIN AMERICAN RAILWAY ASSOCIATION (ALAF) HELD IN BOGOTA WILL REPORT ON RESULTS OF ALAF MEETING. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ALAF MEETING DID NOT DISCUSS POSSIBLE LINK BETWEEN TWO ORGANIZATIONS, PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF FAILURE OF ARGENTINE REPRESENTATIVE TO ATTEND. UP TO NOW, ARGENTINE STATE RAILROADS HAVE BEEN MAJOR SUPPORTER OF ALAF, AND THEIR NONPARTICIPATION IN OCTOBER MEETING INTERPRETED BY THOSE PRESENT AS POSSIBLE INDICATION OF DECLINING ARGENTINE INTEREST IN ALAF.

3. PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY GENERAL OF PARCA ATTEMPTING TO MEET THIS WEEK WITH GOA SECRETARY OF TRANSPORT JULIO SAVON, WHO IS ALSO ACTING HEAD OF ARGENTINE STATE RAILROADS, TO DETERMINE CURRENT OFFICIAL ATTITUDE TOWARD PARCA, ALAF, AND POSSIBLE LINK BETWEEN TWO ORGANIZATIONS. RESULTS OF THIS
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MEETING WILL BE REPORTED WHEN KNOWN.

4. ACCORDING TO PARCA SECRETARY GENERAL LUCIO HASPERVE, ALL DISCUSSIONS TO DATE BETWEEN PARCA AND ALAF OF POSSIBLE LINKAGE HAVE DEALT WITH MERGERS OF SOME FUNCTIONS OF TWO ORGANIZATIONS TO ELIMINATE DUPLICATION AND WITH DEFINITION OF RESPECTIVE AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY, BUT NOT RPT NOT WITH MERGER OF ORGANIZATIONS THEMSELVES. ORGANIZATIONS WOULD COOPERATE IN SCHEDULING OF CONFERENCES, WITH PARCA'S TRIENNIAL CONGRESS TO BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH ONE OF ALAF'S ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLIES. THOSE LATIN AMERICAN RAILROADS WHICH NOW MEMBERS OF BOTH ORGANIZATIONS WOULD APPARENTLY LEAVE PARCA BUT CONTINUE MEMBERSHIP IN ALAF. ALAF, IN TURN, WOULD MAKE SINGLE CONTRIBUTION TO PARCA ON BEHALF OF ALL LATIN AMERICAN RAILROADS. PARCA WOULD RETAIN ITS IDENTITY AS A PAN AMERICAN ORGANIZATION AND ITS RELATIONS WITH MEMBER GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING US, WOULD CONTINUE UNCHANGED. ALAF'S MEMBERSHIP WOULD CONTINUE TO BE LIMITED TO LATIN AMERICAN RAILROADS. QUESTION OF POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION IN ALAF BY US PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AGENCIES APPARENTLY HAS NEVER BEEN RAISED. EXISTING FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUPPORT OF TWO ORGANIZATIONS WOULD BE CHANGED ONLY TO EXTENT THAT CONTRIBUTIONS BY LATIN AMERICAN RAILROADS TO PARCA WOULD BE CHANNELED THROUGH ALAF. THUS, LIMITED MERGER OF FUNCTIONS OF THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS WHICH WAS BEING CONSIDERED WOULD NOT ALTER PARCA'S CURRENT HEAVY DEPENDENCE ON USG CONTRIBUTION.

KREBS

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